

ALIENS

The background of the cover is a dark, moody photograph. It features a woman's leg in a black, strappy high-heeled shoe, positioned diagonally. In the background, a large, dark, and menacing alien head with a prominent jaw and sharp teeth is visible, creating a sense of tension and danger.

FEMALE WAR

Verheiden + Kieth

A L I E N S

— Mike Richardson

— Diana Schutz

— Lynn Adair

— Teena Gores

— Brian Goggin

— Cindy Irwin at Twentieth Century Fox

Steve Perry - Don Brannwald - Jamie S. Rich - Mossy Shelden
- Rich Powers - Art Knight - Dave Nentle - Cary Porter
Chris Cholewick - Perry McNamee - Lisa Stamp - Jason Strain
Suzet Hiner and Margaret Foster

— The original Allen designs of H.R. Giger



ALIENS™: FEMALE WAR

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ALIENS™

FEMALE WAR

story Mark Verheiden

art Sam Kieth

cover John Bolton

lettering Pat Brosseau



DARK HORSE COMICS®

Interview with John Bolton

When John Bolton was approached to do the introduction for this trade paperback, he wasn't convinced about committing his thoughts to paper. As a compromise, he agreed to this interview conducted over the telephone with Jamie S. Rich, one of the assistants on this collection.

John Bolton: In an effort to make this introduction more interesting, I am going to conduct the interview on the side of a building, twenty stories up. If it fails to be interesting, I am going to jump.

Jamie S. Rich: That's because you've never done an introduction before. That's why they've never been interesting.

JB: Mind you, having said that, maybe you'll say it's not interesting just so I will jump, so you won't have to pay me the money you promised me.

JSR: I'd want you to finish the covers you have left first.

JB: Okay, so it's a question of priorities . . . Where should we start?

JSR: Well, wasn't doing the covers for the *Alien* *Earth War* (re-titled *Female War* for this edition) series your first professional *Alien* job?

JB: Oh, you're going to be really boring then, Jamie.

JSR: Just to get started.

JB: Yes, that was my first *Aliens* painting, which is pretty scary if you go way back to the point where I saw *Alien* in 1979. It was a really good movie, and I was inspired by both Ridley Scott's direction and Giger's *Alien* designs.

JSR: What elements of the film do you find you took with you into your other work?

JB: It's difficult to say. It touched on some things I was already dabbling in. Just the idea of an amalgam of flesh and metal but in my case, a more mean-pumped version. I was using less of a highly finished technique than Giger was using. It tapped into something that already interested me, and at that point, when *Alien* first came out, there wasn't much chance to explore these things. I did sketches and drawings for myself that were never published.

JSR: So when the *Alien* comics came out, did you pursue the *Earth War* job, or did Dark Horse approach you?

JB: Dark Horse came to me. I met Mike Richardson . . . actually, I didn't meet Mike Richardson at a convention. I went to his table, and he wasn't there. I spoke to Randy Sandley. Mike rang me a couple of weeks later. He knew of my work and was sorry he had missed me. We talked about maybe doing some stuff for Dark Horse, and we touched on the fact that he was going to be doing *Alien* comics. He asked me if I wanted to do covers, and that was it. I couldn't

wait. I had been greatly inspired by Giger's *Alien*. You can go see a horror/science-fiction movie, and you don't necessarily come away inspired. I didn't feel like drawing *Bobbin the Robot*, for instance, after seeing *Forbidden Planet*. Dark Horse gave me a perfect opportunity for me to do what I wanted to do.

JSR: This was in 1980, at least eleven years since you had first seen *Alien*.

JB: That's right. As I said, I had done some paintings for myself, but at that point, there was not the opportunity to do it elsewhere. Everything was in its infancy, certainly as far as painting and comics were concerned . . . I think I'm going to jump anyway. Jamie [laughs].

JSR: Now, now. It's been six years since that *Earth War* series, and you're back with the covers again. What keeps you going while doing these covers? What continues to inspire you about *Aliens*?

JB: I guess there's something about the purity of the design that I still find inspiring. I think the films are still strong enough to maintain that interest. The second film, *Aliens*, was clever because it was so different from the first, but had I seen the second one before the first, I don't think I would have been as inspired; the *Aliens* were merely cannon fodder. It was an all-action, shoot-'em-up movie.

JSR: *Aliens* didn't have the mystery surrounding it. We'd seen the alien.

JB: Yes, I agree. What I enjoyed about the film was that everything was equal — the *Alien* was as good as the story, the characters were as good as the *Alien*, and so on, and so forth. I liked the fact that the characters seemed to be equal at first, and then they all developed in their own ways, especially Sigourney Weaver [Ripley] at the end. I didn't particularly notice her as an exceptional character in the beginning. It's only as the story progressed, particularly toward the end, that she really dominated the film as much as the *Alien*.

JSR: You mentioned earlier that you were inspired by the direction of Ridley Scott. Didn't you meet him at some point?

JB: Hilarious that was clever. Jamie [laughs]. Wow, you read your notes. I'm impressed. Yeah, there was somebody who was promoting the film when I happened to meet and who also knew Ridley Scott. At that point, Ridley was going to direct *Dune*. I met up with him, and I remember it being an incredibly cold afternoon and wearing a thick jumper. I walked into a hot office, so I spent most of the afternoon perspiring, and I'm sure he thought it was because I was in *sex*.

JSR: Wasn't it? [Laughs].

JB: No, I was dressed appropriately for the exterior but not for the interior. Anyway, we talked about *Dave* and what his plan for it was, how he saw it. There was a chance I was going to do storyboards and maybe develop something more than that, but for whatever reason, he pulled out at the last minute. I think it was because he thought the film was too complicated, but that's putting words in his mouth, and I'm not quite sure if that's true or not. What's ironic is that previous to him, it was Alessandro Jodorowsky and Giger who were going to do *Dave*, and I am now going to be doing a graphic novel with Jodorowsky.

JSR: Were you aware of Giger's connection to *Dave* at that point?

JB: It was only when I saw the Giger collection, *The Necronomicon*, that I saw the *Dave* conceptual work. Jodorowsky and I met earlier this year, in about March or April '86, and we talked about *Dave*. But I hadn't seen any of his work. It's ironic, because I'd had a videotape of his film, *Santa Sangre*, which I lent to a friend. I hadn't even seen it. Then someone walked off with it, so I still haven't seen it, and I'm having a hard time finding it.

JSR: Have you had any contact with Giger?

JB: No. Although, this is an introduction, and when anyone does an introduction, they tend to use the opportunity to promote their other work . . . I have a fan club and a fan-club magazine. The third issue comes out in January. I just think it's so weird the way things connect. It's some sort of strange family tree or something. Robert Birnbeck, who runs the fan club, is in contact with Giger, and he's giving an interview for the third issue of the fan-club magazine.

JSR: Hopefully he won't trash you or anything.

JB: Who cares? I've been trashed by Giger. We can put that on the cover: "John Bolton Trashed by Giger!" So, anyway, that's an incredible coincidence . . . and while I didn't get to work with Ridley Scott, I actually feel at some point I'm going to. I don't know why. I just have a feeling.

JSR: What's your hope for the future of *Alien*, either as a concept or something you work on?

JB: I just hope the fourth film is good . . . I think the only thing that really interests me in the freedom I get in working for Dark Horse, especially in developing these trade-paperback covers. I don't particularly like working for the movie industry. I don't find it that satisfying. Maybe for two or three weeks a year as a storyboard artist, but that's it. What I liked about doing the covers for the trade paperbacks, the "remastered" series, was coming up with a design element that I tried to maintain through all of them.

JSR: They certainly seem to be your most inspired *Alien* pieces. Is there anything else your readers should know?

JB: I don't do drugs [laughs]. Sorry about that, kids. I have, no idea. I've stopped listening to rap [laughs]. It's just repeating itself . . . Jamine, shall I jump, or shall I stay?

JSR: It was relatively interesting. It was dangerous and on the edge.

JB: In keeping with the theme of this interview.

JSR: You're really just a boring guy who sits in his room and paints.

JB: Thank you, Jamine. I appreciate that.



Robert's *Alien*, from the first-edition cover set

SECRET & ALIVE—
—ROBBERY, TERROR,
—ROBBING COLONY

WHEN I WAS YOUNG,
I KNEW A LITTLE
GIRL, NAMED INSIDIOUS

SHE HAD A DOLL INSIDE
OF HER. THE TWO WOULD
STARE FOR HOURS AT
EACH OTHER, BECAUSE SHE
TOLD THEM THEY
SETTLEMENT!

THE ROYAL GUARDIANS FOUND THEIR
NEW ENVIRONMENT COULD FIND AN
RELATIVE, BUT THE LITTLE GIRL
HAD KNOWN NOTHING ELSE. TO
HER, THE PLANET WAS HOME.

SHE ONLY WANTED
WHAT ALL
CHILDREN WANT—

—THE WISDOM
AND SECURITY
OF FAMILY—

—THE HUMBLE CONNECTIONS
THAT COME FROM ONE'S OWN

WENT ONE FOOT
WING. IT WENT FLYING
WITHOUT END.

NO--!



AS THE MONSIEURS
BOARED, REBECCA
BOUGHT SHELTER
IN THE COOL
STEEL AIDS
BENEATH THE
PLUMETTS SURGERY.

SHE LISTENED
FOR THE SCREAMS,
AND WHEN THEY
DIED...

SHE LISTENED
FOR THEM.

SHE WASN'T INTELLIGENT ENOUGH TO
UNDERSTAND THE TRUE NATURE OF
HER SITUATION, FEELING THAT WAS
ALL THEY GAVE HER.

THEN ONE DAY, THERE
WAS A NEW BOARD,
REBECCA.

TO THE CHILD'S EYE, THE BOARDERS
WERE AS UNIDENTIFIABLE AS
THE MONSTERS...

...WITH THE EXCEP-
TION OF A GOOD-LOOKING
MILITARY AND A
CIVILIAN OBSERVER
THEY CALLED *AMULET*.

HONEY--IT'S
DARBY--

SHE WASN'T LIKE THE OTHERS,
SHE *UNDERSTOOD*.

OUT OF THE MONSTERS
ONLY SOME SURVIVED
--IF YOU COULD CALL
WHAT REMAINED TO
HIM *MONSTERS*.

THE BLIND BLOOD
COULD BURN THROUGH
STEEL, BURNING WHAT
IT COULD DO TO MAKE
FORCE...

THROUGH IT ALL,
REBECCA WAS THERE
FOR THE LITTLE GIRL.

AND IN THE END SHE
WAS *REBECCA*.



"I WATCHED YOU
BE YOU FALL TO
SLEEP... THEN I
WENT TO FIND
MY DADDY
PEACE. IT WAS
OVER."

"WE WERE
GONE! HOME."

"FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE
IT HAD BEGOWN, I COULD
DREAM OF LIFE—~~SHINING~~"

"THERE WERE ALL THINGS
WERE ~~SHINING~~."

"SHE'S COMING
OUT OF IT."

"~~SHINING~~—
—NOW
—SOME—"

"ABOUT THREE
DAYS. YOU'LL BEAT
PEELING BETTER
ONCE—"

"WHAT THE HELL
DO YOU MEAN,
"TWOING KING" I'M
—YES, THIS IS SOME
OF ~~SHINING~~—"

"YOU
~~SHINING~~—"

"—YOU'LL SUPPOSE, I
~~SHINING~~—"

"STILL
IS."

"YOUR
MISSED OUT
NOT CHASE
YET."

THE GOVERNMENT
DECIDED ONE SHIP JUST
WOULDN'T SUFFICE...

SUGGEST YOU
TO MAKE SURE
THE JOB GET
DONE.

WHY THE HELL
ARE YOU ASKING
CAPTAIN
KINGSTON?

WE'VE BEEN
RECEIVING THE SULLOON'S
TRANSMISSIONS FROM THE
TIME YOU ENTERED PLANETARY
CONTROL. YOU'RE GOING
TO BE AN ADJUNCT ON
LV-426.

YORK THOUGH
AT THE TIME.

NOT THAT IF
ANYONE, THE TERROR
FORUMS BRANCH WHAT
CRITIC, HAS JAWDROPPED THE
PLACE JUST AFTER...

WOULD THE
FACILITY'S
HISTORY...

BUT THERE'S
A COORDINATE
PROBLEM.

WE'RE INTERESTED IN
SOMETHING ELSE.





"THE SUCCESSFUL SUIT RECOVERED LONGER
ANYWHERE. THE NIGHTMARE'S
ARMYMAN BLUNDERED THE DATA INTO THE
SCIENCE BOSS'S COMPUTER LONG BEFORE
YOU BURSTED HIM AND BLEW THE
MIRACLES."

"WE RESUME THIS...
CREATIONS... AND
RECOVERING THE FLESH
SPOTS WHEN IT DIED."

"COMING BELIEVED IT
WAS SOME SORT OF
MIRACLES FOR ON MIND."

BUT IT'S
JUST **DEAD**--
LIKE DOLLS, KIDS
AND THE **REST**
OF THEM.

DID YOU WANT
ME UP FOR MY
ARMYMAN? IT'S **JUST**
DEAD!

IF SOMEBODY'S STILL
ENTRICK--IF ANY OF THOSE
THINGS ARE STILL
ALIVE...

...DID I HAVE
THE
MIND?
THEY?

SEE, I KNOW
HOW THIS **DEAD**...

...THEY ALL **ARE**.





THE MONSTERS--
THEY'RE JUST ANIMALS.
BUT THIS COASTLINE
RESEMBLES AERIALPORT
EARTH. CRIMBS OF HUMAN
GRIEF, CONSTRUCTION--



I MANAGED TO PULL A
CRITICAL TRANSLATION OF
THAT OLDER SCRIPT. BEFORE
EVERYTHING WENT TO HELL.
IT WAS NO FANTASY SCENE.
IT WAS A REALITY.



I'M GOING TO
MAKE IT **BETTER**
FOR YOU. THIS
IS A **SCIENTIST-
AND** EXPEDITION
--THAT'S ALL.
BUT I NEED A
GUIDE.



SCOTT, DID
WORTH THE RISK
FOR THIS CRITICAL
TRANSLATION?
WICK RHY?

I'M NEVER
GOING BACK--

--PERSON
OVER.



YOU'RE
ACTING
LIKE YOU
HAVE A
CHOICE--



JESSE-- YOU
THINK YOU CAN **REVERSE**
ANY OTHER **EVERYTHING** I'VE
BEEN THROUGH?



THREATEN?

NO.



BUT I'M
GOING TO HAVE
DELIVER, POST-
PERSON **WORTH**
ON THIS
MISSION.



"I'D BEEN HERE BEFORE
AND BEFORE—FULL OF
THE UNUSUAL POWER
THAT COMES FROM
HOLYGRASS.

"THE MACHINES SET THE
OLD GOOD AUTOMATIC
SURVIVAL SYSTEMS FOR
BRIGHT AND DARK AND
THE HOUR TO BEGINNING
FOR THEIR OWNED
MISSION.



"I SPENT THOSE
LAST MINUTES
WITH YOU.

"DON'T YOU SEE, HEART?
I WOULD HAVE DONE
ANYTHING TO
PROTECT YOU.



"PLAY ALONG WITH
HOLYGRASS' EXPECTATION
—RETURN TO FACE
THOSE THINGS—"

TIME'S UP
—LET'S GO



"...EVEN
...LEAVE
YOU.



"REMEMBERING MENWAS
WERE SO MUCH LARGER
THE OTHERS. I DON'T
WANT TO GET CLOSE
TO THEM. I KNOW
THEY WERE GOING
TO DIE."



"WELL,
EXCUSE ME
WAS—YOU SURE
YOU KNOW HOW
TO HANDLE
THAT?"



"REGULATION DUCKHUNT
BLASTERS—GOOD SOUND
WAS WITH TWO IN-
BORDER CLIPS. MUFFIN
BROOD. PASS FOOD BY
A DISTANCE BUT A
BELL. AND THEN
UP CLOSE."



"I THINK
I CAN
ATTEND."



"I KNEW WHAT THEY WERE THINK-
ING: THE MACHINES ON THE SURFACE
WERE GOOD. THEY WERE NOT UP—
BUT THEIR TANKS WERE LEFT FOR
THEM TO USE—FORWARD, FORWARD."



"I WENT
EVERYONE DOWN
AND BACK—
SEPARATION IN
TWO MINUTES."

"THE FIRST SOUND
WAS THE SOUND
ABOUT THE CROWD
OF THE MACHINES."



"OUR BLINDNESS TECHNOLOGY
CALLED US INTO BELIEVING
WE WERE SOMEHOW
DEPENDENT ON THE FLIGHT."

"THE FIRST AND
LAST OF THE
MACHINES
WAS THE
MACHINES. LIKE
ANYTHING ELSE."

BATTLE IN
WE'VE HITTING
BRIDGEHEAD.

YOU DON'T
THINK MUCH OF
US, DO YOU
REPLY?

DON'T
WASTE MONEY
I THINK IF IT
DID...

WE
WOULDN'T
BE
HERE.

CHUCK--IT'S
A SIMPLE IN-RUN
OUT--A SCIENCE
PROB.

WE'LL RUN A
PRELIMINARY
RECON FOR OFF SOME
HIGH-DEF LASSER
WEAPON THEN FOOT
BACK TO THE RUN
BEFORE YOUR CUSTOMER
KNOWS WHAT...

GET
SERIOUS,
TUNNY.

YOU THINK
THEY SENT YOU
OUT HERE FOR
A PITY
EMERGENCY?

BUT WHAT
DO YOU CARE?
YOU'RE FOLLOWING
AND CHASING
THOSE
THINGS BACK TO
EARTH IS JUST
ANOTHER JUNK
AND WHEN IT'S
OVER--WHEN
THEY'RE
GONE--

--WHAT ARE
YOUR PROBABLE
FUTURE ACTIONS
GOING TO MEAN
THAT?

SHUT DOWN,
LET'S DO IT.

DON'T SPEAK
TO ME, REPLY
I DIDN'T
VOLUNTEER
FOR THIS MISSION
BUT I'M NOT ONE
OF YOUR FACE-
LESS BRUCE
BROTHERS--

GOOD
TO HEAR IT
MAYBE YOU'LL
GET THE CHANCE
TO PROVE
IT.

* HENDERSON STAYED
WITH THE LANCER
WHILE I MOVE WITH
THE BATTLES IN THE
RUC.

* THE SHARP OFFICER KNOWS
WHEN TO DELIVER, WHEN
IT COMES TO DRIVING THE
PUSH, HENDERSON WAS A
VERY BRIGHT BOY.

"THE AIRBORNE WERE STILL
DEALING WITH THE BOMB ON
WAGNER TOWER - BOUNDED
IT TO THEIR LOCK AND LOUD
SWEEP BACK ON EARTH."

"AS SOON AS
THEY SAW IT, THEY
BEGAN TO
DROOP -
STOMP."

"THE BOMB
WAS AHEAD OF
THE BOMB -
THE BOMB
WAS AHEAD OF
THE BOMB."

"IT'S A BOMB
WAS AHEAD OF
THE BOMB -
THE BOMB
WAS AHEAD OF
THE BOMB."



"THE BOMB
WAS AHEAD OF
THE BOMB -
THE BOMB
WAS AHEAD OF
THE BOMB."



"THE BOMB
WAS AHEAD OF
THE BOMB -
THE BOMB
WAS AHEAD OF
THE BOMB."



"IT'S
A BOMB
WAS AHEAD OF
THE BOMB -
THE BOMB
WAS AHEAD OF
THE BOMB."

"THE BOMB
WAS AHEAD OF
THE BOMB -
THE BOMB
WAS AHEAD OF
THE BOMB."

"THEY COULD
NOT SEE THE
BOMB -
THE BOMB
WAS AHEAD OF
THE BOMB."

"THE BOMB
WAS AHEAD OF
THE BOMB -
THE BOMB
WAS AHEAD OF
THE BOMB."



"THE BOMB
WAS AHEAD OF
THE BOMB -
THE BOMB
WAS AHEAD OF
THE BOMB."

"THE BOMB
WAS AHEAD OF
THE BOMB -
THE BOMB
WAS AHEAD OF
THE BOMB."

"THE BOMB
WAS AHEAD OF
THE BOMB -
THE BOMB
WAS AHEAD OF
THE BOMB."



--END IT.

OH JESUS.

INCREASINGLY
FIFTY YEARS.

EXPLAINS
THAT A TO ME.
(GROANS.)

SOME OF THEM
MUST HAVE SURVIVED
THE BOMBING AND
BE RETURNED TO THE
DESERT.

DON'T WORRY IT
SEEMS... YOU'VE BEEN
OUTSIDE ON OPEN
GROUND.

(GROANS)--
THIS IS TERRIBLE,
YOU WILL NOT SURVIVE
LONG, I GUESS-- (GROANS)

WHILE IT'S POSSIBLE
--THEY'RE ALIVE-- I
AM IN COMMAND OF THEM--



CRUNCH CRUMPH

MASTERS--

ARE YOU--?

CHIT--
--CAN'T MOVE MY
LEGS--
CHIT--

"IT STARTED
SLOWLY--
AN ELECTRO-
MAGNETIC
STIMULUS
I CAN'T
PRETEND TO
UNDERSTAND."

OH
GOD--

"THE MARCH MUST
HAVE TRIGGERED
SOME SORT OF
POWER SOURCE
INSIDE THE ALIEN
VESSEL."

"IT WAS MORE
THAN SIMPLE
ENERGY-- IT WAS
AN INTUITIVE
LIVING FORCE--
--IT TOOK
CONTROL OF
THE RAC'S
SYSTEMS--
REPROGRAMMING
THE TRACTOR'S
SMART COMPUT-
ERS TO UNDER-
STAND A NEW
LANGUAGE."

WHAT
IS--?

"IT FOLLOWED
HIS LIFE-
SUPPORT
SYSTEM LIKE
AN ELECTRONIC
GHOST--
ENTERING
THE RAC'S
COMMUNICA-
TION DECK."

"THE DEEP--OUTS
FLICKERED WITH A
GLIMMER OF
UNDETECTABLE
PERCEPTION--
TILL THAT WAS
LEFT OF THE DEEP
PLOT'S ARMOR."

"OUR MARCHES USE SCREENS
AND VISUAL AID--CAPABLE TO
DELIVER DATA THE DEEPLITS
COMPUTERS WENT STRAIGHT
TO THE SOURCE."

"IT SPoke
TO ME."

QUART REPORT!

WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON DOWN THERE?

"IT WAS THE BEST OF THE **DIFFERENT** **SHIPS** I'D PICKED UP **ABOARD** THE **HOTEL**—**EXCEPT** THE **TIME** I COULD **UNDER-** **STAND**.

"I SAW **TRUE-** **METRY** **INFOR-** **MATION**, **STAR** **CLUSTERS**, **TRANS-** **SCIENTIFIC** **REFERENCE** **POINTS**.

"—I **FOEL** HER **STRENGTH**, **HER** **UTTER** **SUPREMACY**.

"WE **RECALLED** THE **ALLEN** **ASSASSINATIONS** **WITH** **ACCURACY**, **AND** **THEIR** **LOCATION**—**THAT** **THEY** **WERE** **WHEREVER** **CONVENIENT**, **LIKE** **SOME** **HORRIBLE** **CANCERS**.

"WE **WERE** **MOVING**. **THEY** **MOVE** **WITH** **PURPOSE**.

"THE **PILOT** OF THE **DEFECT** **SHIP** **HAD** **DISCOVERED** THE **BLIND** **GUSSUS**—**THE** **SOURCE** OF **THEIR** **POWER**.

"SHE'S **CALLING** HER **CHILDREN** **BACK** **TO** **HER**."



TEN YARDS...

DRAIN IT,
SERGEANT, THEY'VE
SLACED IT ON TOP
OF US--!

MISTERS
--MYE ARE
YOUR HAND
--I'LL TAKE 'EM



UCCHE--!





CONCENTRATE YOUR FIRE, OPEN ITS BULLE ALREADY--

GET DOWN!

SON OF A BITCH--

--THEY'RE EVERYWHERE!

MOOOO--!

"SUDDENLY IT STOPPED. I FELT THE GUN BARRELS AND FINE PRINT LEAVING ONLY A DEEP, HOLLOW ACH--"

USING--

"--THE BLOODY ARM OF THE KING WAS LAST BREATHING."



"I AM HERE."

REPLY--
I CAN'T BRING
UP THE SIGNAL--
THE SIGNAL'S
BEEN JAMMED
BY--

WHAT TEL--?
WHAT'S HAPPENING
WITH YOU--?

IT--IT WASN'T
INTENDED
FOR US--

--WE INTERCEPTED
THE MESSAGE--IT WAS AN
ACCIDENT--IT WAS--

THIS IS
BETTER THAN
I EVER
DREAMED...

DO YOU HAVE
ANY IDEA WHAT YOUR
INFORMATION IS
WORTH?

WHAT DID
YOU SEE?

COURSE
TRAJECTORIES
STRAIGHT TOWARD--
THE PLANET
SURFACE--

A MOTHER'S
DREAM...





ONCE WE GET BACK
TO THE HARRISON, WE'LL
REBROADCAST THE COORDINATES
BACK TO EARTH. THEY'LL
HAVE A GOOD HEADING
AND BE READY WITHIN
AN HOUR...

WHAT...
WHAT ABOUT
THE **SOUND**--?



THEY WERE
ALREADY BEFORE
WE TOUCHED
GROUND.

THE CORPORATION'S
RESCUE TEAM THOUGHT
WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO USE
THEM TO BRING **SPARKMAN**
-- BUT THEY COULDN'T
WAITER FOR--



SHUNK!



MATTER
TO ME, YOU LITTLE
BUTT.

THE OTHERS
DID **ALREADY** JOIN
THE **CLUB**.

"THE CORPORATION WAS FILLED
WITH MEN LIKE HARRISON.
IF THEY FOUND A WAY TO CONTROL
THE BLINK, IT WAS ONLY A
MATTER OF TIME! BEFORE THEY
UNLEASHED THE THINGS ON
EARTH!"

BUSH
UP THE
HARRISON'S
COORDINATES--
THEN LOCK ON
TO THE B.C.'S
FIELD
SYSTEM!

LET'S GET
THE HELL OUT
OF HERE



"I HAD SEEN WHAT THE COORDINATION WOULD DO TO DESTROY ONE OF THE CREATURES, IMAGINE WHAT THEY WOULD DO TO TEAR AN ENTIRE FLEET."

"WE DETACHED THE BUC FROM ORBIT, TERMINATING THE LAST OF THE COORDINATION'S 'SPECIMENS.'"

"IT WOULD TAKE WEEKS FOR A SECOND MILITARY VESSEL TO REACH BOESON--BUT IT WOULD COME."

"SOONER OR LATER THEY WOULD PIECE TOGETHER WHAT HAPPENED SOONER OR LATER THEY'D COME FOR US."





EVERYTHING WAS SO COMPLICATED I KEPT THINKING OF YOU, NOW... BUT I COULDN'T FORGET HENDERSON'S MISSION...

...OR THE DEATH OF THOSE ALIEN WARRIORS ON EARTH.



THE THREE OF US DISAPPEARED LEAVING OURSELVES IN ONE OF THE OUTER COLONIES. I ASSUMED THE COMMISSION WOULD NEVER FIND THESE PRECIOUS SPECIMENS...



...BUT OF COURSE THEY DID.

SO MUCH FOR FANTASY.



SO YOU'VE COME BACK TO SAVE US.

AND NOW THE HELL ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?



BY GOING TO BRUEY'S BROTHERS WORLD AND SHOWING THE ALIEN THE WAY IT'S BEEN LIVING HERE...



...THEN BLOWING THE ONLY BRIDGEHEAD STRAIGHT TO AGE 6.

AT NIGHT, I JUST WANT
TO SLEEP TO FORGET...



-- BUT, AT
NIGHT, I'M
STILL A
LITTLE GIRL.



I RETURN
TO THE PLANT
ROOM -- TO
THE HEEL OF
MY YOUTH.



THE PLETH
TOOK ME
AND PULLED
ME INTO
ITS MOUTH.



A, E, E, E --!



IT'S SLAYING
THE GOAT



THE ALIEN
MOVING
ON WITH ITS
DEEP --



--WITH ITS
PREHENSILE--

...AND SUDDENLY I AM
PART OF SOMETHING
MAGNIFICENT AND
POWERFUL, SOMETHING
THAT TRANSCENDS
HUMAN WEAKNESS





THAT'S WHEN
I SAW HER



SHE'S NOT OF
THIS -- SHE'S
NOT OF ANY
WORLD.



SHE TALKED ABOUT WHERE
IT BECAME HER, SPREADING
HER PROGRAM LIKE SOME
MIDNIGHT PRESENCE.



BY NIGHT, SHE IS
THE MONSTER THAT
CONSUMES ME.

BY DAY, SHE IS
THE ONE WHO
WAITS FOR ME.



"SOMEONE ARE WE GOING TO DIE?"

VIA SATELLITE LINK

"I WON
DREAM
IT..."

"WE...WE ALL GOT SOME
BODY LONELY, IT'S THE WAY
OF THINGS."



"BUT IT'S
DIFFERENT
NOW, ISN'T IT?"

"I DON'T
BELIEVE THIS--
MORNING
AND IT'S SO
DARKER..."

"WHAT
THE HELL'S
GOING
ON?"



"IT'S ALL DIFFERENT
ANY, I WISH YOU COULD
HAVE SEEN IT BEFORE,
WITH YOUR MOTHER..."

"...WHEN SHE
WAS STILL..."

"DON'T KNOW
WHAT HE
BOTHER..."

"THERE'S
NOBODY LEFT
TO HELP..."



"I STILL MISS MOTHER WHEN
I SLEEP. SHE TELLS ME TO
BE A GOOD GUY, SHE TELLS
ME SHE LOVES ME..."

"ONLY A MATTER OF
TIME BEFORE
THOSE THINGS
WILL US..."

"OH BROOD
US LIKE THOSE
OTHER POOR
BROTHERS..."



"I'LL BRING
UP BROODER
BROTHER INTO A
WALL BEFORE I
LET THEM TOUCH..."



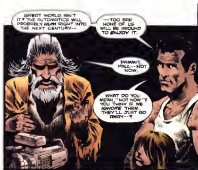
"SOMETIMES I
THINK I'VE BEEN
BROOD, AND THAT'S
WHY THE BROODER
CAME..."

"...TAKES TO
BROOD THEY
TOOK MOTHER
WASH US..."

"BROOD
AND..."

"BROOD, GIVE ME A
WASH..."





SHINY WORLD ISN'T IT? THE AUTOMATONS WILL PROBABLY LEARN TOGET INTO THE NEXT CENTURY...

—YOU SEE NONE OF US WILL BE AROUND TO ENJOY IT.

SHINY? PLEASE... NOT NOW.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? NOT NOW? YOU THINK IF WE ADVANCE THEM THEY'LL JUST GO AWAY—?



LOOK AROUND YOU, SON... THERE ISN'T SHINY ANYMORE. IT'S A NEW WORLD.

THEIR WORLD.



THAT'S ENOUGH!

WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO SAY? NO, WE CAN'T? IT'S OVER?



HERE--LOOK AT IT! THERE SHOULDN'T BE!

I KNOW WHAT WE'VE UP AGAINST... I KNOW OUR CHANCES.

WHY DON'T YOU SAY IT? IF THERE'S A WAY... IT CAN'T BE ANY WORSE THAN THIS.



I--I CAN'T...

THERE'S A JERSEY WAY WE'RE HERE--A JERSEY THING THOUGH WHICH I PREFER US...

SOMEONE'S OUT THERE...

"...I CAN
FEEL IT."

ENCASE
ME!!

--YOU HAD TO BE ASSURED
WE STARTED RECEIVING OVER
BARTH-SART IS.



DON'T ASK ME HOW,
BUT WE'RE PICKING UP
SOME SORT OF FREE-AN-
CORP FROM AN EARTH-
SIDE SWITCHING STATION.

I LL BE
RIGHT
THERE

SOMEHOW I
KNOW SHE WAS
STILL ALIVE.

AUTOSCANNER
PICKED IT UP I PUT
TRAILING THEM DAYS
AGO THEY MUST HAVE
FOUND A WAY TO TIEP
INTO THE GROUND
RELAYS--

--SOMEODY
DOWN THERE
REALLY WANTS
TO TALK.

WE'D NEVER MET BUT
I KNEW HER WHEN
WHAT WAS SHE THINKING
WHAT WAS SHE FEELING?

...I KNEW THE SWELL SOUND
OF HER SCREAMS.

WE TRIED STAYING ABOVE
GROUND BUT SO MANY HAVE BEEN
TAKEN BY THE ALIEN THEN THEY
IDENTIFY WITH THE CREATURES.



THEY'RE USING
THE UNDERGROUND TO
MOVE FREELY BENEATH
THE CITY THE TUNNELS AND
GAPS ARE STILL THERE BUT
CHANGED-- TRANSFORMED.



...HUNTING
UP TO FINDING
THEIR NEW
MASTER.

ALL OF
WHAT OCCURRED
ON HIM
HAD BECOME
A BLUR--
THE SOFTENED
THE MEMORY
WAS A BLOOD
ON BLOOD
AND BLOOD

THIS IS DIFFICULT
TO BE SURE, BUT THE
TIMES SEEM TO CON-
VERGE INTO A CENTRAL
POINT-- LIKE SPINNING
ON A WHEEL...

THE PROGRESS
OF YOUR IS BOTH
A STRENGTH AND
A WEAKNESS.

WE'RE COMING CLOSER
TO THE HUB. THERE ARE
MORE DOORS NOW, PULSED
INTO THE WALLS LIKE WAX
SCULPTURE.

THERE IS TIME TO
HEAL-- BUT YOU HAVE
THE WAY LONG WENT
TO REMEMBER, TO
DREAM.

I USED TO WONDER
WHY THEY BELATED
THEMSELVES-- FOR
THEIR WORLD WITH THE
OCEAN OF DEATH, THEN
I REALIZED--

THEY'RE AWAKENED
IN DEATH-- THEY SLEEPING
THEMSELVES WITH IT.

PERHAPS THAT TERRIBLE
GIVEN KNOWLEDGE OF THE
ONLY THING THEY TRULY
UNDERSTAND

IT'S
REAL-- DO
YOU REMEMBER
--ATTY





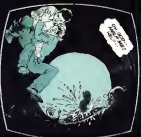
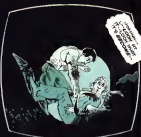
"WE--WE HEARD
STORIES FROM OTHER
CITIES ABOUT THE
ELUSIVE SPENDING
JOURNALS BEING FOUND
AND DESTROYED
EACH WHEN WE STILL
HAD HOPE."

"THIS ONE'S
BURNING IN
THE DARK,
AS IF--"

"BUT THEY SAID
THE CREATURES
WERE IN ISOLATION,
TO PROTECT THE
NACENT EGGS."

"--AS IF SHE'S
WAITING FOR
SOMETHING."









NOT AGAIN!



I WANTED TO STEAL A SHIP, & TRANSPORT ANYTHING...

WHERE IS IT?

I COULDN'T BEGIN TO IMAGINE IT HAPPENING AGAIN.



BUT I KNEW THE CHILD'S ONLY HOME WAS ANIMALS' DEN -- IT WAS THE ONLY HOME FOR ANY OF US...



EVERYONE I'VE EVER LOVED HAS BEEN TAKEN BY THE CLIN.



NOT PASSING TIME







WE SHOULD
BE FINISHED BY
TONIGHT, BUT...



--I CAN'T
QUIT IT. WHAT'S
YOUR BEST, EN
PLANNED TO
TODAY? IN
THIS THING?

WE--
WE'RE NOT
EXACTLY
SURE.

DON'T GET ME
WRONG--IT'S A BIG, BURN
HOT--OK, THE SHINY
SPACE THING. THINKS OUT
OUR EXISTENCE. SUPPLY
LINE.

...IT'S NO REAL
SPACE. NO OVERSIGHTS
NO RESIST. NO DETONATOR
THAT'S PUSHING IT.



YOU KNOW
AS MUCH AS
WE DO.

THEN NOBODY
KNOWS WHAT
DO THEY?

CYMON, GIVE--
GIVE ME A BURN. YOU'RE
GETTING SOME THING UP
OFF-WORLD, RIGHT? NEW
COLONY SPACE STATION.
WHAT?



SEE YOU A
WELL-KNOWN
MAN, MCFEE?

NEVER
SAY "MCFEE"
USE FOR
IT, WHY?

I'M LEAVING
IT'S IMPORTANT
TO REMEMBER IN
GOING THINGS--
ANYTHING?

--EVEN
DREAMS.

WE'RE GOING
CRASHING DOWN--
FLYING HELFIRE TO
HELL...AND FOR
GOOD!!

EVEN IF
THAT THING
BREASTS AND GOES
WILL BE ABLE
TO CRASH
IT'S

HERE--
BUTLY COMING
THE BRASS COMMANDER
TO ASK THEM
WHILE SHE CHARGED
FOR A SHOT.

STRENGTH'S
BEEN UNDER
LOCK AND KEY
EVER SINCE BEING
GIVEN THE ORDER
OF HAVING THEM
REMOVED GIVES THE
ROOM AND THE
THE CITY.

THEY'RE
ALREADY

DOESN'T THE
CREW UNDER-
STAND THAT?

SURE I
GUESS--CHRIST,
I DON'T
KNOW--

--SOME-
THING I'M
NOT SURE
I DO



REPLAY HAD
KILLED ME TO
MEET HER IN
THE SPACE
STATION & PAY
DOUGH TO COM-
PLETE REPER-
ESTATIONS FOR
LAUNCH

FLUNKY WE
CLANGED TO OUR
PRIMITIVE
CYCLE & OF
DAYS AND ABOUT
THE RITUAL OF
THE SLAY-BUT
IT'S AN ANNOY-
DANCE IN EFFECT



CLARIFY WE
CLING TO OUR
PRINTING
CYCLE OF
DAY (AND NIGHT)
THE RHYTHM OF
THE SLIP- BUT
IT'S AN IMPROVE
DANCE TO SPACE.

WE ASKED THE
YOUTH TO ACCOM-
MODATE OUR
MUSIC WITH THEM,
MAKING THE
ALBUM BETTER...
SANTOS.

100

100%
 100%
 100%

THEY
BROUGHT
UP A COUPLE
DOZEN SPECIES

• **WILL (ORDER) TO RUN BIOLOGICAL AND MEDICAL TESTS...**

• **DEFEND EVERYTHING WE GO TO HELL**

THEY'VE
SPOKE
BUTLY MORE
THEIR
STAY

ENR

MARINE
VESSEL
KENT:
GIVE ONLY
FINAL
REPORT

CLIFFED:
STUPID GODDAMN
WINE FOR A
GEEK

MARINE
THAT'S HOW
IT GOES

POPPER -- GUESS--
SMITH, IN THE
MIDDLE, THEY
WERE NOTHING--

BUT OUT
THERE THEY
WERE MY
FRIENDS

I
WOULD
HAVE
DIED
FOR
THEM--

--SHOULD
HAVE DIED
FOR THEM

CLICK!

YOU
GONNA
BE
A
BITCH?

YOU
NEED
TO
PUSH
IT--
ANNNNN
HE--
SEE
HOW
FOR
IT
TO
GO...

KSSSHH!

WELL
OVERT

YOU
BASTARD



CAPTAIN?

COME WITH ME A MINUTE
BEFORE WE GET
TO TALA.



I AM NOT GOING
TO ALLOW LUNCH
UNTIL YOU FIND A
COMMAND-ENTER
PILOT.

WHEN
THEY
STARTED
YOU
TOLD ME
YES--

UNLIKE COMMAND
HE WOULD NOT QUOTE
ME REGULATIONS CAP-
TAIN--IT'S A LITTLE
LATER FOR THAT.



THIS WAS
SOME TECHNICAL
GAMBLE I PULLED
OUT OF THE AIRCRAFT
AND MANUAL--I IN
TELETYPE COMMON
SENSE.

YOUR SHIP'S BEEN
RECONFIGURED FOR
GRAVITY DRIVE--YOU
JUST DON'T GO BEHIND
THE STEERING WHEEL,
AND TAKE HER OUT FOR
A SPIN--



THEN I'D
BETTER
FLY HER.

"NO"--
NOW
"YES"--

WHAT THE
HELL'S YOUR
PROBLEM,
WHAAT?

WHAT DO YOU
CARE? I'M
NEEDS A PILOT--
I'M VOLUNTEER--
AND...

AND I'M
ALL YOU
GET.



EVER SINCE I WAS A LITTLE GIRL, I'VE FOUND THAT ANSWERS ARE LITTLE MORE THAN LIES DESIGNED TO BE BROKEN--

NO, BULL-- WE'RE AWAY.

GOOD

BE THERE IN A MINUTE

--BUT AS WE PREPARED FOR LATELIFE, I MADE A PROMISE TO MYSELF--



--AND TO A LITTLE GIRL, I'D NEVER MET.

I'VE BROCK, HAY

I BROCK IT



REPLY HAD PUT THEM IN A CROW FROM THE SPACE STATION'S STRANDED MILITARY CONTINGENT--INTENDING THEM WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO FIGHT AGAIN--

DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS PERSON'S ALL ABOUT, BUT I'D DO JUST ABOUT ANYTHING TO GET OFF THIS PLATFORM.

YOU BET HAVE TO



--BUT THERE WERE STILL QUESTIONS. ALWAYS QUESTIONS

GRAVITY DRIVE'S NORMAL FUEL'S GOOD, AND I'M BEHAVING BEEN ACROSS THE BOARD.

BETTER PUT THE OFF OUT, REPLY WERE OUT OF HERE

NOT YET. I WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT



WHAT DO YOU WANT TO HEAR? THAT YOU WERE RIGHT? THAT THERE'S MORE TO THIS THAN HUGO DESIGNED THINGS?

IS THAT THE PROBLEM?

I DON'T KNOW EITHER IT'S ALL I'VE GOT



--BETTER YOUR PROBLEM--

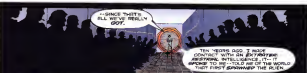
KACH K!

-- END OF
RENTAL --



WE'VE BEEN IN WORSE
THREE DAYS NOW YOU'VE HAD
A CHANCE TO MEET OUR BROTHAS
AND GABICULARE ON THE NATURE
OF OUR MISSION.

1
APPROPRIATE
YOUR
MAYBE...



--SINCE THAT'S ALL WE'VE REALLY GOT.

TEN YEARS AGO I HAD CONTACT WITH AN EXTRATERRESTRIAL INTELLIGENCE, IT-- IT OFFERED TO ME--TOLD ME OF THE WORLD THAT FIRST GREETED THE ALIEN.



THE PRONES ARE ONLY VESSELS GUIDED BY A SUPERIOR EXTERNAL INTELLIGENCE.



WENTY OF US HAVE FELT THIS ALIEN PRESENCE--THE TORTURE OF BEING THE ONE TO SPOKE WITH ITS CHILDREN--

--ITS HUNGER TO BE WHOLELY RIGHT.



THE CHILDREN WERE NEVER ABLE TO BE BROKE TOGETHER. THEY WANTED THE PARADISE OF ALIEN LIFE. ONE CANNOT ENJOY WITHOUT THE OTHER.

BUT THEY WERE DEFEATED, SHAKENING BETWEEN WORLDS LIKE SEEDS IN THE WIND--



--AND THROUGH IT ALL WE'VE BEEN CALLING TO THEM... CALLING THEM BACK.

SO NOW WE'VE HERD THEM--TOUGH RIGHT?

WHAT THE HELL ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?



THE BITCH
WANTS HER BROTHER
WE CAN'T BRING
THEM FOR HER--

...SO WE'LL
BEING AWAY
TO BRING--

...IN
TWO--

THE SHELLS ARE
SUPERVISOR TO THE
ELDER SISTER--BUT MORE
IMPORTANTLY, THEY'LL
SUGGEST AGONY--
FORGET--

...HE
LOST
BLOOD--

THAT'S WHY YOU
CRASHED US OUT HERE
TO PUT EVERYONE
TO DEATH--BUT
THOSE THREE TO BIRTH
SON IS EXACTLY DEATH
REASON--IF YOU MUST
BE OUT OF YOUR--

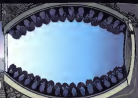


JESUS--
DEATH IS
BLOOD--



GEORGE BORTH HAS LOST
A GOVERNMENT CONTRACT
NAMED JARROW CONCEIVED A PLAN
TO PLANT IT! ALSO FOR A MANTLE
KNOWLEDGE IN THE ROYALTY
ROOM

GEORGE BORTH
BEFORE THE BOMB
COULD BE TRIGGERED



THESE THINGS--
THESE "MOTHER
QUEEN" WILL BRING
HER CHILDREN TO
HER

SHE'LL TRY
TO REPLACE
THE WORLD THEY
LEFT BEHIND--

AND WHEN
THEY'VE JOINED
IN THEIR GRAND
JOURNEY--

--WE'LL
DESTROY THEM
WE'LL DESTROY
THEM ALL--



GATEWAY
PLATFORM, TWO
DAYS LATER.

YEAH, CAPTAIN
MCQUEEN, THIS IS
CONNELL. PICK
THREE. YOU'D BETTER
HAVE A LOOK AT
THIS.

WHAT HAVE
YOU GOT,
CONNELL?

I--
I'M NOT
SURE, CAPTAIN.

AT FIRST I
BLAMED THE PROBLEM
ON FAULTY MONITORING
EQUIPMENT.

-- BUT LOOK AT
THIS. WE'RE NOT
TALKING ABOUT SOME
ISOLATED EVENT.
IT'S GLOBAL.

Jesus.

THIS IS CRAZY--
THESE SURFACE TEM-
PERATURES ARE WELL BE
LOW CLIMATIC NORMS.

THAT'S
NOT ALL.
ATMOSPHERIC
COMPOSITION,
MOISTURE,
WIND FLUCTU-
ATIONS--

CRAZY THING
IS I'VE LOCATED
THE SOURCE--
SOURCE--

--GOD, IT'S
PLASMA-BASED--
AND IT'S COMING
FROM SPACE!

--THEY'RE REFINING
THE SCIENCE OF REFINING
YOU'D SEE IN THE EVERMORE
STORIES OF A DEEPER
FORMER PROJECT.



WITH THE SHIP'S GRAVITY DRIVE PROPELLING US AT HUNDREDS OF TIMES THE SPEED OF LIGHT, WE WERE CRASHING INTO THE "DANGER" WITHIN A MATTER OF HRS.

THE CLOSER WE CAME, THE MORE I FELT THE ALIEN PRESENCE.

...THE MORE I KNEW IT FELT AWAY.

ALLY: WE'RE ALMOST READY.

HAVE YOU ALL SIGHT?



TULLY:--T
GOD I DON'T
KNOW

I--I'VE
BEEN THINKING
ABOUT BIRTH

I NEVER REALLY
CONSIDERED IT, BUT
NOW I FEEL I'VE
BEEN ABOUT ALL THESE
YEARS. SOMETHING.



IT'S THE
SAME WITH ALL
OF US. WE'RE
BLIND--



--THE
ALIEN.



IT'S ALREADY
BEEN TOLD
ON EARTH THAT
SOMETHING
DANGEROUS
IS COMING
FROM US, BUT--



--MAYBE
WE'RE
THE
HUNGERS,
TULLY.



THEIR
SEARCH IS OVER--
BUT BIRTH WAS
ABOUT TO BE THERE
ALL ALONG.



WHERE
DID YOU
GET THE
SUNGLASSES?

REALLY? SHE
CONTACTED CAPTAIN
MCGUIRE TO GET THE
SUNGLASSES
POWER LENSING AND
WROTE THEM FOR
MILITARY DUTY.



OH, SHE'S
HAD EXPERIENCE
WITH THIS SORT
OF THING.

A GUN
SHE LIKED
HAVING IN
SIDE.

GOOD

CRUNCH!

SHE, MCGUIRE,
ELECTRICIAN UP—
HAVE GUYS WE HAVE
HARD COPY OF THE
DEEP SHIPS NAVI-
GATION, JUST IN
CASE.

CHRIST, BRAD,
HAVE YOU CHECKED
OUT THE NOTION
ON THE DEEP
SITE?

I'M PICKING
UP SOME COORDI-
NATES THAT MAKE
MT. EVEREST LOOK
LIKE A BOO
BYE.

HEY, IF IT WAS
EASY,
ANYBODY
COULD DO
IT.

BECAUSE
TODAY, THE
B.C. IS PRO-
BLEM. ALL WE
HAVE TO DO IS
DEEP THEM.

YEAH.

AND FROM
THE REVERSE,
THEY'LL BE
FIGHTING THEM.



I'm sorry, honey.



Reply... they're ready.

Yeah.

Kind of there in a minute.



I just hope they selected the disc to connect those low frequency tones tend to suppress at the first sign of...

Yeah.

Reply, is this a picture of you...?



My daughter, it was taken a couple of weeks before I reported around the neighborhood.

She... she was beautiful.



I spent her whole life drifting through empty space...lost in years of perfect observation while she grew old and free.

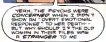
The alien stole the time we could have had together.

Sometimes I think those things have as much right to survive as any of us. Some times I wonder what gives us the arrogance to challenge their existence.



Then I look at my little girl.

And I never.



Yeah, the police were concerned when I didn't show on "overt emotional response" to her death... but why should I? The old woman in their files was a stranger to me.



GLAD YOU COULD STOP BY, DIDLEY--
ESPECIALLY
SINCE THIS IS
YOUR PARTY.

DREWSTER IS
PICKED UP A CLUSTER
OF MOVEMENT IN THE
SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE
VERY SUSPICIOUS-- MIGHT
EVEN BE ORIGINAC.

PROPER PROCEDURE
WOULD BE TO DROP A
ROCKET WARHEAD-- BUT I
DON'T SEE ANY POINT
BOTHERING WITH COUNT-
DOWN AND TRIPLE-
REDUNDANT
CROSS-CHECKS.

WE'RE
BETTER
DEAD'D
OR WE
DIE ...

"...LET'S NOT
WASTE THEM,
MAYTAME."

MY ENTIRE LIFE HAD
BEEN IN PREPARATION
FOR THIS MOMENT AND
YET I WAS SUDDENLY
FILLED WITH AN AWFUL
SENSE OF DREAD.

IT WAS
WRONG.
IT WAS ALL
WRONG.

IT WASN'T THE
THOUGHT OF DEATH
THAT FRIGHTENED
ME--

...IT
WAS OUR
FEBRUARY,
OUR DIS-
POSAL.

DUTY, HONOR, A LITTLE
GOD, NAMED ANY WE
WANTED TO BELIEVE IN
OUR GREATEST JOYFUL
MOMENTS, BUT THE TRUTH
IS NEVER SO SIMPLE.

RIPLEY'S DREAMS
WAS NIGHTMARE--
WAS IT REALLY
THE PERSONS THAT
HAD BROUGHT US
HERE?

SURFACE
WAS THE
PUSHING US
AWAY.

BETTER
BEFORE
THE BOYS

TAKE IT OR
LEAVE IT, JACK--
I CAN'T MAKE IT
FOR LONG IN THE
DARK WIND.

I'VE SCOPED
A WHOLE NEW LEVEL
HORIZONTAL, ABOUT
THREE HUNDRED METERS
FROM THE MAIN
CLUSTER.

THANK
YOU

I'M WORKING
WITH THE
GRUNT'S WHO'S
ALL YOURS

ON HERE. THEY
HUR LONER--B

MAYBE WE HADN'T
COME TO THE BLIN'S
WORLD OF OUR OWN
DESIGN...

...AND-
HE'D BEEN
SEEN.

THIS IS
GREATER
TO A P.C.
WE'RE OUT
OF HERE

LEVEL MY ASS.
I'D LIKE TO SEE
BROOKER'S IDEA
OF APOCALYPTIC
TERRORISM.

DROD SHIP'S
BUILT FOR
NOTION GEN-
ERATION BUT THE
CLUSTER OF
100 METERS
AND CLOSING.

I
HEAR
YOU

WE'LL
BE
RIP--

IT'S
TAKING
HOURS

MADE WE HADN'T
COME TO THE SLAIN'S
WORLD OF OUR OWN
ACCIDENT...

...SAYS
WE'D BEEN
SENT.

THIS IS
BETTER
TO A P.C. --
WE'RE OUT
OF HERE

IT'D
THREE
MINUTES

I
NEED
YOU

WE'LL
BE
GONE...

LEVEL, MY ASS:
I'D LIKE TO SEE
BREWSTER'S IDEA
OF JOURNALISM
THROUGH

PROP SHIPS
BARRY KIDLEY
WOTON SEN
SOME PUT THE
CLUSTER AT
100 METERS
AND CLOSING



WE WE LOST
ONE OF THE REY
STREETS, BUT OTHER
WAS DAMAGE SEEN
ANIMAL --

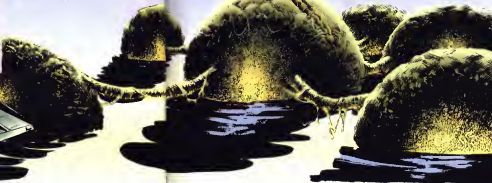
WHAT THE
HELL DO WE
MITE

I -- I'M NOT SURE
SOME KIND OF ANIMAL
FLAME THINGS LEFT
AND WE LOST
TRACTION.

WHAT
IS THAT
STUFF?

ON
MY
GOD...

IT'S
REAL.





WE... WE LOST
ONE OF THE DET
STRUTS, BUT OTHER-
WISE DAMAGE SEEMS
MINIMAL --

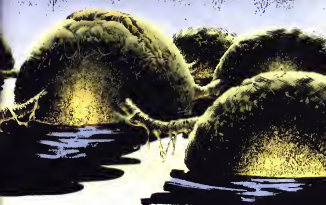
WHAT THE
HELL DID WE
HIT?

I... I'M NOT SURE.
SOME KIND OF MOVE-
MENT, TREADS LIFTED
AND WE LOST
TRACTION.

WHAT
IS THAT
STUFF?

OH,
MY
GOD--

--IT'S
REAL.



I DON'T REMEMBER
VOLUNTEERING FOR
THIS DETAIL. DID YOU
REVERSE MY VOLUN-
TEERING FOR THIS
DETAIL?

WHO
REVERSED IT
SAID?

"JUST BE
CAREFUL
OUT THERE."

WE'VE
COME TOO
LATE TO
LOSE IT
ALL NOW.

HELL, THOSE
THINGS
AREN'T INTERESTED
IN MY LITTLE
BACKSLASH. NO.

THEY
LIVE 'EM
YOUNG.

ATMOSPHERE'S
LOW ON OXYGEN AND
HIGH ON CONTAMINANTS—
BREATHABLE, BUT JUST
BARELY USE THE OXYGEN
MASKS WHEN YOU CAN.

WE DON'T WANT
ANY DEAD AIRBORN
NIGHTS MONITORING
THE CLUSTER RELA-
TIVE TO YOUR POSI-
TION. SO LISTEN UP.

—AND
BEAT
BRIDGE!

HEAVY HATE AND BLOOD
PRESSURE READINGS LOOK
LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A
HYPERTENSION'S NOW-FOR
MAGAZINE.

THEY MAY DO A LOT
OF THINGS, BUT SLEEPING
WOULDN'T BE ONE OF THEM.

THIS... REALLY...
ISN'T RELATED TO ANY
SURFACE PHENOM. IT
SEEMS TO BE EMANATING
FROM THE FORMATION'S
CORE.

WHAT ARE
THESE THINGS?
THEY'RE TOO
LARGE TO BE
ALAN'S BIG
BOSS.

WHATEVER THE
HELL IT'S DEFINITELY
ORGANIC--AND IT'S
DOING THOSE THING--
LUCENT ENERGETIC LIFE
IS SON OF A BITCH!

I CAN--
I CAN
ALMOST SEE
INSIDE...

OH GOD--
I'M PICKING
UP MOVEMENT
FROM THE FIVE
EXTERNAL
CLUSTERS.

WILKS--
IT'S COMING
FROM THOSE
PODS!

PAUL:
GET OUT
OF THERE--
NOW!

THERE'S
SOMETHING
OUTSIDE--

W-H-O--?



AGHHHH--!



ROLLAT
STAND,
BROTHERS
HELP
ME--!

GET
IT--
GET
IT--
THE
RANGERS
--?



CAAAAAAAAAA



CORVEY:



THOSE POWER
LORDS ARE BUILT
OUT OF ROLLED
STEEL, AND THEY'RE
BRINGING THEM BACK
LIKE TIGER POWER.



THE
GOODMAN
THINGS
MUST HAVE
EVOLVED--



THE
QUESTION
IS NOW
WHEN?

A
A





LOSE
THAT
BOMB!

BRRRIIPP!

I'M GETTING
MOTION SENSOR READ-
INGS FROM ALL THE
EXTERNAL POOLS-- MUST
BE MORE OF THE THINGS
THAT ATTACKED CAPTIVE.

TAKE CAREY
HULL-- MAYBE
WE SHOULD
HAVE SENT IN
THAT POOL

POSS BREWSTER
IN THE DROP SHIP
TELL HIM WE'RE LOOK-
ING AT AN EMERGENCY
PUSH-OFF LINE NOW.

DEAD? YOU
SAY? BUT
NO WAY CAN
WE PUT DOWN
AT YOUR CUR-
RENT POSITION.

ROLL
BACK TO THE INITIAL
DROP POINT AND
WE'LL PUSH YOU
UP GENTLY TO
A KITTEN

WHA? WHAT
ARE YOU SAYING?

YOU HEARD
HIM-- WE'RE
GOING TO SEND
HIM AND SUCH
THE HELL OUT
OF HERE!

I
KNOW
SHE'S
THERE!

I DON'T
COME THIS FAR
JUST TO LET HER
SLIP AWAY.



WRUNCH!



"...THEY'RE TRYING TO
ABDUCT
HER."

WHUMP

WHAT
THAT?

SOMETHING'S
CRASHED OUR
REACTOR'S INTERNAL COOLING
SYSTEM--CORE
TEMPERATURE'S
RISING BY THE
SECOND!

YEAH,
AND MANUAL
CONTROLS FOR
SHUT--

IT LOOKS
LIKE WE'VE
GOT VORTICES
ON THE WALL.

REFLEX-- WE'RE
NEVER GOING TO
MAKE IT TO THE
DROP SITE.

THIS
IS YOUR
SHOW--ANY
IDEAS?

YEAH, GIVE ME FIVE
MINUTES OF COVER
TO GET INTO THE
THING'S ARSE--

--BUT WE'LL
FINISH IT, ONE
WAY OR ANOTHER.

RIGHT--JUST
PULL OVER AND
I DROP YOU OFF.

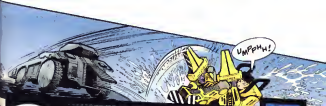
THOSE BASTARDS
WILL BE ALL OVER
US IN A SECOND--

YOU--
YOU KNOW
HOW I FEEL
--HOW MUCH
YOU AND BRU
MEAN TO
ME...

SO WHO SAID
ANYTHING ABOUT
STAYING? AS
SOON AS I'M OUT,
BURN THE WATCH.

HEY
SCRAWNY
TY, REFLEX--

--SAVE
IT FOR
WHEN YOU
GET BACK.



IT'S
JUST YOU
AND ME
NOW...

"I'M SHOWING
SEVERAL LIFE
FORMS MOVING AT
HIGH SPEED
TOWARD THE APC..."

—I GUESS
THAT MEANS
REPLY'S PLAN
IS WORKING

REACTOR
HALFWAY TO CRASH!
CALL A FC, SHANN
AND WITH THOSE
SCRAMBLERS...

—THE
WAY IT'S
ALWAYS
BEEN

IF HER PLAN WAS
WORKING ANY BETTER
WE COULD BLOW OUR
GRANDS OUT NOW AND
SAVE THOSE SCRAMBLERS
THE TROUBLE...

DEATH...



"COULD
IT COULD" IN
REPLY...



"...WE COULD BE
OUT THERE--
WITH ANJELIK."

I WONDER
HOW LONG
THEY'VE BEEN
ANYWHERE...

HOW LONG
THEY'VE BEEN
FOR RELEASE...

GOD--I
CAN FEEL YOU
ALL AROUND
ME...

WHACK!

WHY
DON'T YOU
SHOW YOUR
SELF--?

EXPLAIN YOUR
WORTHLESS
EXISTENCE--
WHAT YOU DID TO
THE CREW OF THE
WOLFRING THE
SOLDIERS FROM
THE SALAGO...

CHAK!

EXPLAIN
EMPTY...

EXPLAIN
NEW T...







...WELL BRING?

WHACK

STOP
EVER THIS
IS BRILL

BRING MY
POSITION AND
PREPARE TO
EXPECT ANCH-
OR

I TOLD
HIMSELF THAT
I'LL TELL
YOU--THERE'S
NO PLACE TO
LAND--I

WE
CAN'T
EXPECT
SAY--

BO BOB'P
PUT DOWN--BUT
GAT THAT SHIP
OVER MY COORDI-
NATES, AOMG



CORE TEMPERATURE'S
GOING CRAZY--WE'RE
GOING TO TOTAL, BUILT
DOWN IN A MATTER OF
MINUTES!



WE'RE TALKING
MORE THAN ABLY
DOWN, WHEN THAT
CORE HITS THE LIQ-
UID FUEL CHAMBER,
WE'RE LOOKING AT
AN EXPLOSION.



OH, GOD--I--
I'M PICKING UP
NEW MOTION
READING FROM
THE OUTER
PERIMETER ..

SHE'S--
SHE'S CALLING HER
CHILDREN...

THERE
MUST BE
THOUSANDS
OF THEM!

I SHOW SEVEN
MINUTES UNTIL BUST-
DOWN, STEERING & LOCKED
WHEELS. THAT THING
WILL KEEP ROLLING UNTIL
SOMETHING SLOWS.



TIME
TO MOVE
NO!



TAKE ALL THE
AMBULANCE YOU CAN
CARRY--WE'LL HAVE TO
BANK THE TOWER OFF
ON JORDY.

RA-CHUNK!

TAKING
A LITTLE
HOLE
HERE--



I KNOW I
SHOULD HAVE
PUT ON THAT
SECOND PAIR
OF BOOTS.





EVERYBODY
STAY
TOGETHER!

CONCENTRATE
YOUR FIRE--
FIRE AT SPECIFIC
TARGETS!

GO ON
GUYS!

BRRRIIP!

YOU
REALLY LIKE
THIS--?

IT'S OVER
HICKS-- YOU
KNOW THAT!
WE'LL NEVER
REAKE THE
DROP SITE!

FIVE MORE
MINUTES
AND THE R.I.C. WILL
DETONATE!
THEN--CLASH
BWAH!

THEY'RE
ALL
AROUND
US!

NEITHER
WILL
THEY!









LESS THAN 100 HOURS LEFT, HECK...

...AND I'M NOT LOOKING FORWARD TO A YOE-YO-YOE WITH THESE THINGS!

I DON'T THINK ANY OF US ARE WISE TO CONSIDER OUR ONLY...



...OPTION...



I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

ERRR-CRUNCH



THIRTY SECONDS TO HELP SHOW!

SHUT THE HELL AND YOU SWIFTING FOOT!



I THOUGHT THEY SAID THEY COULDN'T JUMP HERE...





549
TAX T



"YOU'VE REPTH
ARE NOW."





"IT'S
COLD."



"SO
COLD."



"...THE EARTH
WE KNOW AS GORG.
THE ALIENS HAVE
NAMED IT AS THEIR
GORG."



"POWER TO THE SATELLITE
UPLINKS WENT OUT WHEN THE
CAPTAINES FINALLY SUBVERTED
THE MAIN UNDERGROUNDS.
THERE WOULD BE NO MORE
TRANSMISSIONS."

"I--I USED
TO COME HERE
WHEN I WAS
A KID."

"THERE WERE MORE
SOB-ORGANIZED ATROCI-
TIES DOWN BY THE GORG--
THREE-THIRTEEN-SEVEN-
SEVEN--BUT I WAS PREOCCU-
PIED WITH THE MACHINES."

CHARLIE
CHEESE
PIZZA

"FOR SOME REASON
WE DON'T GIVE THE
CHEESES LIKE THE
OTHERS WE'VE BEEN
ABLE TO REPAIR
HER MENTAL LINKS..."



"I DIDN'T KNOW WHY BACK
THEN, BUT NOW I THINK I
UNDERSTAND. THEN NEVER
KNEW ABOUT THE POWER OF
DEATH--"

"--AND IF YOU NEVER
LIVE, YOU CAN NEVER DIE.
THERE'S A KIND OF
IMMORTALITY IN THAT."

"THAT'S
ENOUGH,
PAUL."

"YOU--
YOU USED
TO PLAY
HERE?"

"WHILE SHE LIVED. THE
OTHERS TO REPAIR HER
CHILDREN."



"ANYONE
ALL I HAVE
LEFT."

"SHOW
ME WHAT
IT WAS
LIKE."

"I WANT HER
TO KNOW SOME-
THING GOOD,
SOMETHING DECENT
BEFORE SHE DIES."



"BEFORE
WE ALL
DIE."

"PRETEND
FOR ME."

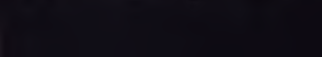
"THAT
SHOULD BE
EASY."

"WE'VE BEEN
PRETENDING FOR
AGONY-- PRE-
TENDING THERE'S
A CHANCE FOR
TRUTH. THERE'S
A REASON TO--"



"--SO
ON."





KRRUMPH!!!

COME ON, JERRY--
WE'VE GOT TO FIND
COVER!

WE'VE
GOT TO--

WE'VE
BEEN LOOKING
FOR YOU.

...HAPPEN--?

WE'VE
BEEN LOOKING
FOR YOU.

JERRY--

JERRY--

JERRY--
WHEED! HOLD
YOUR WH--

NO--!

OH, GOD...

NO!

OUR JOURNEY BACK
TO EARTH WAS AN
Eerie STILLNESS TO
IT, HOW DID OLD-TIME
SAILORS PUT IT—THE
CALM BEFORE THE STORM.

GATEWAY STATION
WAS LIKE A JEWEL
SUSPENDED OVER THE
BLUE CURVE OF EARTH,
STRIPPED OF COM-
FORT, IT GLITTERED
WITH RARE BEAUTY.

WE HAD STOLEN BY
THE ALIEN
MOTHER QUEEN—
AND WE WOULD
USE HER TO ENTER,
THEN DESTROY HER
CHILDREN ON EARTH.

RIPLEY—
WE'RE
ALMOST SET
TO DOCK.

I KNOW,
BEST
COME IN.

RIPLEY SPENT
HOURS ON THE
SECURITY DECK,
WATCHING HER
JUST... HATE-
FUL.

I FOUND MY
PEACE IN THE
SOULLESS
EMPTYNESS OF
SPACE.

RIPLEY FOUND
WARRIOR IN THE
CYCLONE CORRIDOR
OF THE ALIEN
QUEEN'S POD.

I'VE BEEN
STUDYING
IT THE WAY
IT MOVES.
THE WAY IT
THINKS.

IT
KNOWS.

IT—
SHE—
KNOWS EVERY-
THING.

I THOUGHT
THAT BY
SURROUNDING
HER WITH THE
WINGS OF HER
DEAD, SHE
WOULD HYPER-
POWER AND
THE OMNIPOTENCY
OF THE GOD
BUT THAT'S
NOT IT AT
ALL.

THINK
NEXT—
SHE
KNOWS.

AND
SHE
DOESN'T
CARE.

GATEWAY STATION

WE'VE LOST ALL COMMUNICATION WITH EARTH SINCE YOU LEFT. ATMOSPHERIC STATION MAKERS TRANSMISSION AND RECEPTION ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE.

WHAT—WHAT ABOUT THE SATELLITE UPLINKS? THE LITTLE GIRL—?

ANYONE LEFT ON EARTH BELONGS TO THE ALIAS THAT LITTLE GIRL IS DEAD.

FOR HER SAKE, I HOPE SHE'S DEAD.

THERE'S SOMETHING ALICE— WE PICKED IT UP NOT LONG AFTER YOU LEFT.

WE'VE BEEN GETTING BROADCAST TRANSMISSIONS FROM THE SURVIVING HIGH ALTITUDE WEATHER STATIONS. THE CLOUDS THERE SUGGEST WE'VE DISCOVERED AN OVERWHELMING OF FORTY TO TWENTY DEGREES.

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

IT'S NOTHING TERRIBLE—WE CHECKED.

MY GOD.

IT'S THE OTHER—THE ONE THAT SAID TO BE ON A.W.I.—

WE BROUGHT IT HERE.

NEAR AS WE CAN TELL, THE RE-TECHNOLOGY REPAIRS OF OUR OWN TECHNOLOGY AND TECHNOLOGY.

WE TRACKED THE ENERGY SOURCE INTO SPACE, AND MANAGED TO PULL A LONG-RANGE CHARGE OFF ONE OF THE SURVIVING SATELLITE'S.



IT'S COMPIGNION DIED
ON ADHERON, LONG BEFORE
THE HOPELESS--LONG BE-
FORE ANY OF US. IT ACCOMPANIED
US AS WE SEARCHED FOR THE
ALIEN'S HOME. THEN IT AP-
PEARED WITH US TO EARTH.

WE THOUGHT
IT SURVIVED OUR
BATTLES WITH THE
ALIEN--

--BUT IT
WANTED
REVENGE, NOT
REVENGE.

WE'RE WASTING TIME,
DON'T IT? IT DOESN'T
MATTER. NOTHING
MATTERS EXCEPT
THOSE THINGS.

DIDN'T YOU
HEAR ME SAY
THAT CREATURES--
WHATEVER THE HEAV-
ENLY--IS EVOLVING
TECHNOLOGICAL TECH-
NOLOGY THERE WON'T
BE ANY BIRTH LEFT
IF WE DON'T--

YOU DON'T
SEE IT?
DO YOUR

THIS
ISN'T ABOUT
EARTH.

THIS IS
FOR ME,
ONCE THOSE
CREATURES
ARE DEAD--
I'M THROUGH
WITH IT.

I SEE--IT'S
EASIER WHEN YOU
JUST DON'T GIVE
A SHIT.

THE MILITARY, THE
CORPORATION--THEY
BROUGHT THE ALIEN
TO EARTH FOR A
REASON. THEY TRIED
TO BUY AND THE
SAME WAY.

I OWE THE ALIEN SOME
REVENGE, BUT I DON'T OWE
YOUR EARTH A GOODBYE
THANKS. WE'RE GOING TO
FINISH THIS--NOW.

GREAT-- FIRST WE GOAWFY-
DRIVE ACROSS THE GALAXY TO
PLAY TRICKS WITH SOME ALIEN
THINGS. AND NOW WE'RE ORDERED
BACK TO EARTH.

I'LL GO ALONG FOR THE
RIDE, BUT I'M TELLING
YOU--IF ANYONE TRIES TO
PULL ANOTHER GUY ON
ME, THERE'S GOING TO
BE TROUBLE.

YEAH--THE
THAT SHE MIGHT
ACTUALLY SHOOT.



RIPLY AND NEWT LED THE OTHERS TO THE SHIP, REVEALING THEMSELVES FOR THEIR FINAL STRUGGLE. THE PLAYS OF HATED BURNED DEEPER IN RIPLY'S EYES.

THERE'S NO PERSON FOR YOU TO COME, NEWT! YOU'LL BE DEAD HERE.

I KNOW.

I'D SEEN IT SO MANY TIMES BEFORE, IN FILMS, IN GENERAL, SPEARS, IN MYSELF.

I WATCHED THEM DISAPPEAR BEHIND THE GOLD STEEL OF THE AIRLOCK-- DISAPPEAR INTO RIPLY'S OBSESSION.

ALL THE TIME KNOWING WHAT I WOULD HAVE TO DO.

OVERLAP BORDER WERE PART OF AN OLD-STYLE MILITARY CAMP-- AND, LOCATED IN A REMOTE MOUNTAINOUS BLUNDER, THAT WAS RIPLY'S TARGET.

THE ALIEN QUEEN MOTHER WOULD OFFER HER FLOCK FOR NUCLEAR ANNIHILATION. THOSE NOT KILLED BY THE INITIAL BLAST WOULD BE LEFT WITHOUT ANY PROTECTION.

I DIDN'T HAVE MUCH TIME.

--AND YET, IN A FEW
HOURS, SHE WAS THE ONLY
ONE WHO WOULD TRULY
UNDERSTAND WHAT I
WAS ABOUT TO DO.

LOOKS LIKE THE
MILITARY BOMB
SPECIALISTS WERE
IN QUITE A HURRY
TO GET IN.

YOUR OR CROWD
HAD THEM MADE THE
MURDER INTO A
SEQUENTIAL DETONATION
PATTERN JUST
PRIOR TO EVALUATION

GOD ONLY
KNOWS WHY
THEY DIDN'T
BLOW THE
MONEY UP.

GOD
ONLY
KNOWS

WONDER THE
SEQUENCE WAS
INTERRUPTED BY SOME
NATURAL PHENOMENON.
THESE WEAPONS WERE
NEVER MEANT TO WITH
STAND EXPOSURE TO
THE ELEMENTS--

--THERE'S ENOUGH
FIREPOWER HERE TO
LEVEL THE CONTINENT
BUT THE BOMBS
THEMSELVES ARE PRAY-
ING TO DUST.

RIPLEY--
WHERE?

DOWN
HERE!

I THINK I
FIGURED OUT
WHY THE BOMBS
NEVER
DETONATED--



YOU DON'T
HAVE TO LIKE
IT, TULLY--
JUST NOT
IT.

--AND IT'S MORE
THAN COMMISSION--
SOMEBODY DECIDED TO
PUT A STOP TO
THIS COUNTRY
REVENUE.

WHAT THE
HELL DID THAT
DOESN'T LOOK
LIKE ANY KIND OF
CONVENTIONAL
BURN.

I DON'T
LIKE THIS--
I DON'T
LIKE IT
ONE BIT.

RAIDED THE
CRIP SHIP
THIS SUBJECT'S
A GUY.



--BEEP-- THEY'VE
LOCALIZED THE
PERS. IN AND--BEEP--
REPAIRING IN SECOND
AND FORWARD--NO SIGN
OF INTEREST. BUT--
BEEP-- STAND BY
JUST IN CASE--

YOUR SIGNAL'S
SHOWING UP. SWEETER
--ENERGY FIELD'S PLAY-
ING WELL WITH
CONNECTIONS--

--CONTINUE WITH TEN-
MINUTE LOCATIONS AND CON-
TINUOUS MOTION SWEEP--
YOU PICK UP MOVEMENT. GET
THE HELL OUT OF THERE



WHAT
THE--?

WELL, DID
YOU AUTHORIZE
A LOWER
RICH LAMSON
SEQUENCE?



WHAT?

--SOMEONE'S
BROKEN INTO ONE
OF THE LOWER BAYS,
TULLY--THEY'RE UNLOADING
ONE OF THE CARGO SHIPS!



GET ME AN
OPEN LINE
INTO THAT
VESSEL!

THIS IS CAPTAIN
MCGUIRE. IDENTIFY
YOURSELF!

I--I'M
SORRY,
CAPTAIN

BUT THIS
IS THE
ONLY WAY

ANYONE
NOT
DEAD

I CAN
FEEL
IT

I'D LEARNED A
LOT WATCHING
ARCADE T. TRINITY
LATER, I COULDN'T
LEAVE THE COORDINATES
FROM RAY'S LAST WIRE
TRANSMISSION. I HAD
"BORROWED" THE DATA
AND COULD FROM THE
GATEWAY SECURITY
COMPUTER.

THE CARGO SHIPS
WERE DESIGNED
TO BE PILOTED BY
MANKIND. FIELD
SOLDIERS ABOUT ON
THE ON-BOARD
SYSTEMS WERE
STRICTLY AVOIDANCE
IT.

SHE WAS JUST
ONE LITTLE GIRL
LOST IN THE RAIN
OF BLOOD, FIRE
AND ANGER.

WE'D NEVER
EVEN MET--
BUT I KNEW
HER.

HER NAME
WAS JANE--

--HER NAME
WAS JANE.

WE WOULD
SUBMIT THE
THOSE THINGS--
OR NOT AT
ALL.

I WASN'T SURE WHERE TO
BEGIN-- AND THEN I HEARD
THE SCREAMS! JUST LIKE
BEFORE-- LIKE GUN
LIKE ALL THE REST...

THE SOUND WAS
CLOSE, NEITHER
AT THE STREET, THE
BROKEN STREETS.

EACH TIME I ESCAPED
THE ALIEN, IT SEEMED TO
BEAD, BE BEAD, I BEGAN
TO REALIZE THIS WAS
MORE THAN COINCIDENT
DATE OR CHANCE--

THE TERRIBLE
SCREAMS GREW
LOUDER, AND I
WANTED TO
JOIN THEM--

I HAD MY VOICE
TO THE SOUND
MORE OF PAIN
AND HORROR.

OH,
MY
GOD--

--IT WAS
DENSE, IT
WAS HEAVY
TO BE.

NOOOO....!

BA-BLAM!

BA-BLAM!
BA-BLAM!
BA-BLAM!

JESUS, GOD--
I DIDN'T WANT
TO DIE.

I COULD FEEL MY SON BLEED FROM THE HEART OF THE BLOATED FLEET. THERE WERE HUNDREDS OF THEM... THOUSANDS--

DAH!
BABY--!

POOM!
POOM!

--ALL ANTELOPES OF THEIR CLAN--DANGEROUS TO PROTECT HER, PROTECT HER UNBORN CHILDREN.

GO TO HELL, YOU BRAT!

PLOOM!

YEAH, COME ON...

BLAM

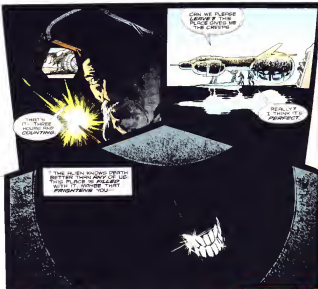
BLAM

AS LONG AS I AM ALIVE, I'LL A TAUNT TO YOUR SURVIVOR, SKINNOR. BUT I'LL TAKE THE ALIEN INTELLIGENCE AWAY THAT!

I WANTED BABY--

--THEY WANTED ME.





"...THEN GET
RIPLEY UP
HERE, ANDY!!!"

"WE'RE
GETTING CLOSE
GOD THOSE THINGS
ARE EVERY-
WHERE!"

"WHAT'S
WORTHIT?"

"IT'S ONE THING TO
PRE-SET COORDI-
NATES, BUT I'VE NEVER
FLOWN ONE OF THESE
AT CLOSE RANGE"

"I'M
SCARED..."

"SHIT!
WE'RE LOSING
POWER! I DON'T
KNOW HOW TO
STOP IT!"

"WE'RE
GOING
IN!"

"WHAT DO YOU
MEAN, ANDY?
SHIP'S GOTTA GO
DOWN! WE'VE
CLOSED ANY GROUND-
BASED AIR TRAFFIC
FOR WEEKS!"

"IT'S
AUTOM
GATE
SYSTEM--"

"--AND
IT'S ABOUT
TO--"

"CRASH!"

SCREEEEEE



WAAAAHHH!

HAVE TO
HAVE TO GET
AWAY FROM
THE SHIP.

CHRIST--
I'M SORRY--
I'M SO
SORRY...

YOU
SHOULD
BE.

WHAT THE HELL DID YOU
THINK YOU WERE DOING BY
COMING HERE? YOU KNOW WHAT
WE'RE DOING? JUST BY LAND--
AND IF THE MOUNTAINS ARE
WITH THOSE FLAME THINGS-- AND
THE BOARDS HAVE BEEN ARMED.

YOUR
POSSIBILITIES
UNCONSIDERABLE,
BUT HE'LL
SURVIVE.

DAY'S
BROTHER--
NO HE--?

IS THAT
WHAT THIS WAS
ABOUT? DIDN'T
BILLIE--THE LITTLE
GIRL'S DEAD.

NO--
THEY'VE
TAKEN HER WITH
THEM--

--MAYBE
YOU CAN LEAVE
WITHOUT HER, BUT
I CAN'T.

SHE HAD RISKED EVERY-
THING TO PULL ME FROM
THE WRECKAGE OF THE
CARROD SHIP.

7-MINUTE ONE HOUR
AND COLUMBIAN
SURROUNDED BY THOSE
GODDAMN THINGS.

I THINK
SOMEONE'S
TRYING TO PULL
US SOMETHING.





"YOU MIGHT BE
AWAY!"



"BILLY'S
INJURED
AND WE'RE
CATCHED UP
AND READY
TO FLY."

"WE'LL
CATCH UP
LATER. RIGHT
NOW, LET'S
GET OUR
BUTTS
OUTTA HERE."



"NOT
YET."



"TELL
BROOKER
TO PICK UP
THE GUN, BILLY
AND I ARE GOING
BACK IN."



"ARE YOU OUT
OF YOUR MIND?
THE MOUNTAINS
CARAMELS WITH
THOSE THINGS."

"WE'VE GOT LESS
THAN AN HOUR
UNTIL DETONATION!"



"I'M NOT LEAVING
HER. NEVER. NOT
THIS CLOSE--AND
NEVER AGAIN."



"STAY WITH THE
DROP SHIP GIVE US AS
MUCH TIME AS YOU CAN
BUT WHEN THE SHIT COMES
DOWN I WANT YOU TO LEAVE
AND LET IT GO."



"DON'T
SUCKER--THIS
IS BLUNDER ARE
YOU DOING THIS
FOR THAT LITTLE
GIRL OR FOR
YOURSELF?"

"DOES IT
MATTER?"

"TAKE
CARE OF
YOURSELF
WILL?"



...NOW GET
THE HELL OFF
OF HERE.

RIPLEY HAD SPENT
YEARS TRYING TO
FORGET ALL SHE HAD
LEFT BEHIND. NOW
THAT KIMMY HAD
CAREER--

...SHE'D LOST
HER SELF-RESPECT.
HER IDENTITY.



CHUNK!

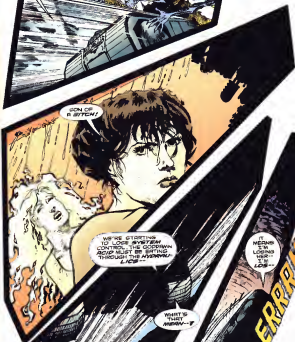
I KNEW WHAT
HE WAS THINKING
BUT HE WAS WRONG.
THIS WASN'T SUI-
CIDE. RIPLEY AND
I DIDN'T WANT
TO DIE--



--WE WERE TRYING
TO FIND A WAY TO
LIVE. MAYBE THE
LITTLE GIRL COULD
SHOW US.



HOLD
ON,
GILLIE--





FOR A MOMENT
THERE
WAS ONLY
DARKNESS.



...AND THEN
THERE WAS LIGHT.



RIPLEY BLEW THE
EXPLOSIVE BOLTS ON
THE SIDE HATCH AND
CLIMBED OUT TO FACE
HER DEMONS.

AND
HER, BILLIE—
JUST ~~POWED~~
HER.

I FOLLOWED CLOWE
BEHIND, READY TO
KILL MY OWN.

GRY--
GARY!

BLAM

TALK TO
ME --
PAPA--GOOD
PLANNING!

BLAM

HELP
ME

GARY--?

OH
GOD!

WAKE UP,
HONEY—JUST
WAKE UP!

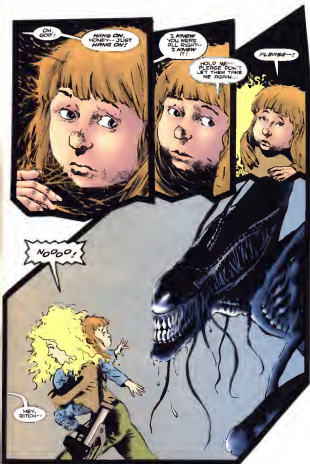
I KNEW
YOU WERE
ALL RIGHT—
I KNEW
IT!

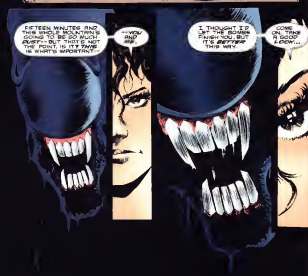
HOLD ME—
PLEASE DON'T
LET THEM TAKE
ME DOWN...

PLEASE—!

NOOOO!

HEY,
BITCH—





IT'S THE
LAST THING
YOU'LL EVER
SEE.

BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA



DOWN IT,
RIPLEY. WHERE
THE HELL
ARE YOU?



TWELVE MINUTES
AND COUNTING.
WE'RE EATING
UP OUR SAFETY
MARGIN BUT QUICK.

LAST TIME I
TRIED TO PLAY IT
SAFE, I ENDED UP
WITH A PISTOL
AGAINST MY HEAD.



--BUT THIS TIME
THERE'S NO ROOM
FOR DEBATE IF WE'RE
NOT OUT OF HERE IN
FIVE MINUTES. KISS
YOUR ASS GOOD-BYE.



TWELVE MINUTES TO DETONATION-- WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT-- NOW!!

CHRIST, RIPLEY, THE ARC IS TOTALLED--

--I DON'T THINK THEY'RE GOING TO LET US **WALK** OUT.



WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT **WALKING**?

GET INSIDE THE ARC-- NOW.



CHRIST, WE'LL BE WE **POW** RIPLEY'S

IT WILL TAKE THOSE A COUPLE OF MINUTES TO **DISAPPEAR** INSIDE THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH TIME



THEY DESIGNED THE ESCAPE POD FOR QUICK EXITS IN CASE OF INTERNAL CORE DAMAGE--

--IT'S SUPPOSED TO BLOW UP AND OUT--

--BUT WE'RE GOING TO **CHANGE** THE SPECIFICATIONS!



HOLD TIGHT--



BLAM!

RIGHT, THAT'S IT.
WE'RE GONNA
DO HERE I'M
SCARY, MAN.
OUT--

MY GOD-- IT LOOKS
LIKE SOME SORT OF
PROJECTILE-- OR
ESCAPE POD?

TIME
IS DOWN--
NOW?

WAIT A
MINUTE--
WHAT THE
HELL IS
THAT?

I REMEMBER THE REST
OF IT IN ISOLATED
MOMENTS, WHEN THE
POD'S INTERNAL
CRASH SLOWED US DOWN,
SOFTENING OUR IMPACT.

ALL I KNEW--ALL
I CARED-- WAS
THAT THEY WERE
SAFE.

THE NEXT THING
I REMEMBER IS
LYING IN THE DROP
SHIP'S SICKBAY--
AND RIPLEY
STANDING OVER ME.

SHE WANTED TO
HOLD ME, TELL ME
EVERYTHING WOULD
BE ALL RIGHT--BUT
SHE WAS AFRAID.

ONLY MALE
CONSIDERS I WAS
A LITTLE GUY,
AGAIN--AND I
TRUSTED HER.

ARE--ARE
WE GOING
TO SLEEP
ALL THE WAY
HOME?

GOD,
YES, ALL
THE WAY
HOME--

AND
I'LL
NEVER
LEAVE
YOU.

I DECIDED
TO SLEEP
IN RIPLEY'S
ARMS,
KNOWING
SHE'D STILL
BE THERE
WHEN I
AWOKE--

--KNOWING
IT WAS FINALLY
OVER.

IT WAS WHILE
RECOVERING
ON GATEWAY
THAT I DECIDED
TO WRITE THIS
DIARY--MY
RECORD OF
WHAT HAD HAPPENED. I HOPE
IT WILL SERVE
BOTH AS A
REMINISCENCE--

--AND A
MEMOIR.

RIPLEY, WALS, TULLY,
BALK--THEY WERE
ALIVE. THEY HAD Faced
THE ALIEN AND SUR-
VIVED. NO, WAS MORE
THAN THAT--THEY HAD
CONQUERED.

I WOULD NEVER TELL
THEM THE TRUTH:
WHAT IT TOLD ME
VICERALLY AS WE
LANDED ON THE ALIEN
QUEEN'S WORLD--

--WHAT IN SOME
STRANGE WAY, I
MUST HAVE KNOWN
ALL ALONG.

WE'D
BEEN
LURED.

IT DESTROYED THE DETONATOR
CONNECTING DUNCAN'S BOMBS.
IT HAD CALLED RIPLEY BACK TO
EARTH. IT HAD SET US ON A
SEARCH OF THE MOTHER QUEEN.

IT LURED US TO
SABOTAGE THE ALIEN
SCOUTS SO IT COULD
TERRIFY THEM, TAKE
BIRTH FOR ITSELF.

IT WAS WHILE
RECOVERING
ON GATEWAY
THAT I DECIDED
TO WRITE THIS
DRAFT-- MY
RECORD OF
WHAT HAD HAP-
PENED. I HOPED
IT WILL SERVE
BOTH AS A
REMINDER--

--AND A
WARNING.

RIPLY, WERE TULLY,
FALK-- THEY WERE
ALIVE-- THEY HAD Faced
THE ALIEN AND SUR-
VIVED. NO, IT WAS WORSE
THAN THAT-- THEY HAD
CONQUERED.

I WOULD NEVER TELL
THEM THE TRUTH--
WHAT IT TOLD ME
UNACCEPTABLY AS WE
LANDED ON THE ALIEN
QUEEN'S WORLD--

--WHAT, IN SOME
STRANGE WAY, I
MUST HAVE KNOWN
ALL ALONG!

WE'D
BEEN
LIED.

IT DESTROYED THE DETONATOR
CONNECTING ORION'S BOMBS.
IT HAD CALLED RIPLEY BACK TO
EARTH. IT HAD SENT US IN
SEARCH OF THE MOTHER QUEEN.

IT USED US TO
RELOCATE THE ALIEN
SOURCE SO IT COULD
TERMINATE THEN TAKE
EARTH FOR ITSELF.

FOR AN INSTANT I FELT
A WAVE OF ANGER.
EVERYTHING WE'D BEEN
THROUGH-- WAS IT ALL
A GAMBIT A PUNCE FOR
"THE OTHERS" ALIENMENT?

THEN I REMEMBERED
SOMETHING RELEY
HID SAID. THIS NIGHT
ABOUT EARTH MY-
SCOW.

IT WAS
FOR US.

WE'D COME TO TERMS
WITH OUR FEAR AND
OUR PAIN. THERE WOULD
BE OTHER WORLDS FOR
US. WE'VE LIVED PAIN
ON THE ALIEN.

HUMAN GREED AND
HATE HAD BROUGHT
THE ALIEN TO EARTH.
WE HAD FAILED.

...IT WAS TIME
TO MOVE ON.

PERHAPS EARTH'S
NEW INHABITANTS
WOULD LEARN
FROM OUR MISTAKES.

PERHAPS
NOT.

THE
END

AN AVERAGE WOMAN WITH AN EXTRAORDINARY WILL TO LIVE.

A SHELTERED GIRL WITH FEW OPTIONS LEFT.

A WORLD ON THE BRINK WITH NO WAY OUT.

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When Lieutenant Ellen Ripley awoke from her long journey in space, she discovered the devastating secret that lurks behind her long sleep. When she and fellow veterans Wilks and Billie prepare to meet the Aliens head-on and to turn a powerful Alien queen against her spawn in a battle intended to save Earth, that secret becomes Ripley's greatest weapon — and her greatest liability. As the fate of Earth hangs in the balance, Ripley and Billie must come to terms with what it means to be Alien . . . and what it means to be human.

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